



**Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Company presents
Christopher Durang's BEYOND THERAPY**

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For information visit www.mpctheatre.com

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTEREY - The Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Arts Department presents Christopher Durang's hilarious comedy, **BEYOND THERAPY**. Performances are Thursday at 7:00 PM (May 6th & 13th), Friday & Saturday at 8:00 PM, (May 7th, 8th, 14th, & 15th) and Sunday at 2:00 PM (May 9th & 16th), MAY 6 – 16 on the Morgan Stock Stage, located on the Monterey Peninsula College campus. MPC is located at 980 Fremont Street, downtown Monterey. **BEYOND THERAPY** is directed by Theatre Arts Department co-chair Gary Bolen.

About BEYOND THERAPY

Time Magazine theater critic Gerald Clarke wrote that Christopher Durang's **BEYOND THERAPY** offers "the best therapy of all: guaranteed laughter. Durang's plot, which has more bounces than a pin-ball game, goes from the unexpected to the unpredicted ... providing two hours of hilarious surprises."

It tells the story of Bruce & Prudence (Matt Pavellas and Taylor Thorngate) who are both in therapy and trying to find companions. Prudence seems fairly normal, aside from the psychological damage dealt to her by her seductive therapist. Bruce, meanwhile, likes to cry, has a male lover, and frequents a therapist who can't get out of her own world long enough to help anybody else.

These two hapless lovers meet over dinner, only to end up frustrated, angry, and wet when the scene closes. The play then follows them to their respective therapists and some much more laugh-out-loud comedy. Or, as Dan Sullivan of the Los Angeles Times wrote, "Beyond Therapy" is "wickedly funny, terribly slanted, and essentially true."

The cast also includes James Brady, as Dr. Stuart Framingham; Jennifer Newman, as Mrs. Charlotte Wallace; D. Scott McQuiston, as Bob; and Brandon Burns as Andrew the Waiter.

BEYOND THERAPY, features crude language, and adult situations. It is intended for mature audiences only, and is not recommended for children or those who are easily offended.

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About Gary Bolen

Gary Bolen is co-chairman of the MPC Theatre Arts Department where, in addition to his directing and producing duties, he teaches acting, voice & interpretation, acting for the camera and method acting. Prior to arriving at MPC he was a life-long resident of Southern California (and remains a rabid and unrepentant UCLA, Dodgers and Lakers fan). He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Theatre from Cal State University Fullerton and an M.F.A. in Acting from UCLA. A member of the Screen Actors Guild, Actors' Equity and AFTRA as well as the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Mr. Bolen appeared in dozens of television dramas, sit-coms, soaps and national commercials. **BEYOND THERAPY** marks the 16th show that Professor Bolen has directed for the MPC Theatre, including *Follies*, *Grease*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Urinetown*, *Funny Thing Happened on the Way to The Forum*, and most recently, *Company*.

About Christopher Durang

Christopher Durang is a playwright whose works include *The Actor's Nightmare*, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* (Obie award; off-Broadway run 1981-83), *Beyond Therapy* (on Broadway in 1982, with Dianne Wiest and John Lithgow), *Baby with the Bathwater* (Playwrights Horizons, 1983), *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* (Public Theatre, 1985; Obie award, Dramatists Guild Hull Warriner Award), *Laughing Wild* (Playwrights Horizons, 1987), *Sex and Longing* (Lincoln Center Theatre production at the Cort Theatre, 1996, starring Sigourney Weaver), and *Betty's Summer Vacation* (Playwrights Horizons, 1999; Obie award).

His most recent works are *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*, which premiered at City Theatre in Pittsburgh in 2002, and the musical *Adrift in Macao*, with music by Peter Melnick and book and lyrics by Durang, which premiered at New York Stage and Film in summer 2002.

He holds a B.A. from Harvard College, and an M.F.A. in Playwriting from Yale School of Drama. Since 1994 he has been co-chair with Marsha Norman of the Playwriting Program at the Juilliard School in Manhattan, and he is a member of the Dramatists Guild Council.

BEYOND THERAPY plays 7:00 PM Thursday (May 6 & 13); 8:00 PM Friday & Saturday (May 7, 8, 14, 15); and 2:00 PM Sunday (May 9 & 16). Advance Tickets are \$18; \$15 if purchased online; Day of show tickets are \$25 General Admission, \$20 Senior, \$15 Young Adult (16-25). **BEYOND THERAPY**, features crude language, adult situations. It is intended for mature audiences only, and is not recommended for children or those who are easily offended.

Tickets may be purchased from the MPC Box Office (831-646-4213) Wed - Friday 3:00 to 7:00 PM & 2 hrs prior to performances, or online at www.TicketGuys.com .

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